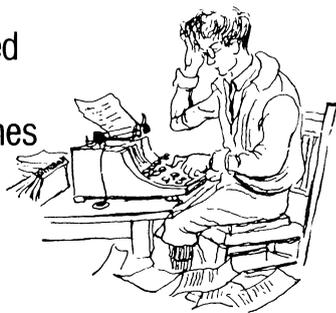


THE SOURCE

edited
and compiled
by
David J. Jones



Gosford goes online

Gosford City Library has become only the second Australian public library to use AUSINET, the Australian information network run by ACI Computer Services. Initially Gosford will use its online information retrieval service to meet the information needs of its council, and will also use the US-based DIALOG and ORBIT systems.

It is planned to make these services available to the business and professional community of the area in due course, as well as to welfare and other local organisations.

Ron Saunders, the Chief Librarian at Gosford, has even developed his own program for a TRS 80 microcomputer in order to simulate an AUSINET search. With the aid of Ron's program, which is written in BASIC and requires 16K of memory, the microcomputer pretends that it is a dial-up terminal connected to AUSINET. This enables cheap basic training on the system to be given.

Fuller information on the program and on the developments at Gosford are available from Ron Saunders, Chief Librarian, Gosford City Library, Donnison Street, Gosford, NSW 2250, phone (043) 24 6711.

Meaty menu

The looseleaf guidebook with the tasteful title *Recipe book service of online searching* gives brief instructions for accessing a wide, and widening range of online services.

The most recent issue covers AUSINET, QUE (the ACI Computer Services private file system), CSIRONET, MEDLINE, MIDAS (the Overseas Telecommunications Commis-

sion's international data service), DIALOG, ORBIT and SHARP. The last-named will be less familiar to some readers: The I. P. Sharp Associates network gives access to a wide range of statistical and business data, including a considerable amount of Australian information.

The *Recipe book* tells you a little about the system itself and then takes you step by step through the search procedures for each system. Information about databases available and costs is also given.

The latest issue of this work shows evidence of extensive and sensible revision. As the information is presented in a uniform manner (which it is often not in guides to specific systems) this work should be of considerable assistance to the occasional user of particular systems. It will be rather too elementary for the hardened searcher who specialises in using one system only.

With its improved ingredients, *Recipe book service of online searching* merits a certain two stars. It costs around \$50.00 for the basic volume plus one year's updates and is available from R. D. Williamson & Associates Pty Ltd, 2 Kenny Street, North Balwyn, Vic 3104. (ISBN 0 9595009 0 1).

Chips with everything

The crucial inter-relationship between technology and the workforce is the subject of an excellent annotated bibliography published last year by the Technology Research Unit, which is part of the NSW Ministry of Technology.

Technology and the workforce, which was compiled by Bill Ford, Margaret Coffey and Dexter Dunphy, contains over 450 select references to Australian and overseas material, including monographs, journal articles, government reports, conference proceedings and mimeographed documents. Most of the material listed dates from 1970 or later, and is in the English language. There has been deliberate exclusion of references to technology and the workforce in Third World countries.

Most of the material can be readily obtained through the library network, although it is interesting to note some comments in the introduction to this work which relate to document backup. The editors write:

It is increasingly difficult to gain access to ma-

terial identified by such new information technologies as computerised literature searches. Cuts in library funding which masquerade under the euphemism of the 'steady-state library' have resulted in often long delays in obtaining vital material, in a dramatic decline in book acquisitions and in massive cancellations of journal subscriptions. This reduced access to knowledge is one of the ironies which is ignored by the 'pushers' of information technology.

Don't let funding cutbacks deter you from purchasing this bibliography — it's well worth \$10.00 plus \$1.00 postage (\$6.00 overseas airmail postage).

Technology and the workforce: an annotated bibliography by Bill Ford, Margaret Coffey and Dexter Dunphy, is available from the Department of Organizational Behaviour, University of New South Wales, PO Box 1, Kensington, NSW 2033. (ISBN 0 85823 212 X.)

Expectations met

A guide to reference books published by a library association has a lot to live up to, perhaps even more when going into a second edition.

Dorothy E. Ryder's *Canadian reference sources* was first published by the Canadian Library Association in 1973, with a supplement appearing in 1975. The second edition, published last year, incorporates material from the earlier works and a wealth of new material — evidence of the 'marked increase in scholarly reference books' in Canada in recent years.

This second edition certainly meets expectations: well-selected materials, succinctly annotated, well-planned and laid-out, well-indexed. It is organised, Sheehy- and Walford-like, by broad subject areas, each then subdivided into component specific subjects, a tried and rational scheme.

Each item has its own identifier, a combination of letters and numbers which is the only feature of *Canadian reference sources* which I would have preferred otherwise. A very minor nit, indeed, in this excellent publication.

Canadian reference sources by Dorothy E. Ryder was published in 1981 by the Canadian Library Association. It costs C\$18.00 (ISBN 0 88802 156 9). □



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